

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

GAC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 291222 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5816
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1324

STATE FOR EUR; USIA FOR IOR/ RIM, IEE, IWE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, GR

SUBJECT: MACEDONIAN QUESTION IN YUGOSLAV- GREEK RELATIONS

REF: ATHENS 1736; THESSALONIKI 0176, 0189, 0191

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE KAVALIERATOS
STATEMENT RE MACEDONIAN QUESTION BEGAN WITH TANJUG
COMMENTARY DATED MARCH 24. BY MARCH 28 HAD SPREAD TO
MAJOR BELGRADE, SKOPJE AND SARAJEVO DAILIES. COVERAGE
TERMS STATEMENT " SURPRISING, INCOMPREHENSIBLE, UNACCEPTABLE"
AND EMPHASIZES IT " NOT IN LINE WITH GOOD RELATIONS GREEKS
PROFESS TO DESIRE AND WHICH IN BEST INTEREST OF BOTH
NATIONS AND OF BALKANS." END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST COVERAGE OF ISSUE WAS COMMENTARY DATED MARCH 24,
WHICH APPEARED IN TANJUG BULLETIN AND CENTRAL PRESS FOLLOWING
DAY. AFTER QUOTING KAVALIERATOS STATEMENT, COMMENTARY OBSERVED
IT IS " ... TO SAY THE LEAST, INCOMPREHENSIBLE, UNUSUAL FOR
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SITUATION IN WHICH MADE, AND TOTALLY IN OPPOSITION TO MUTUAL INTEREST IN FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF YUGOSLAV- GREEK RELATIONS... JUST FOR THAT REASON CANNOT HELP BUT CAUSE PROFOUND DISSATISFACTION AND INDIGNATION ON PART YUGOSLAV PUBLIC." ITEM CONCLUDED BY NOTING THIRD SESSION INTERMINISTERIAL CONFERENCE RE ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC- TECHNICAL COOPERATION DUE TO BE HELD IN ATHENS IN FEW DAYS. OBSERVED THAT IT SHOULD MARK STEP FORWARD IN MUTUAL COOPERATION, BUT ASKED, " HOW POSSIBLE TO HARMOIZE SUCH COURSE WITH KAVALIERATOS STATEMENT?" ITEM FRONT- PAGED POLITIKA, P. 2 BORBA. MACEDONIAN PARTY ORGAN NOVA MAKEDONIJE CARRIED UNSIGNED EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON KAVALIERATOS STATEMENT AND COVERAGE IN GREEK PRESS.

2. ITEM REAPPEARED TANGUG AND CENTRAL PRESS MARCH 27 NOTING DEMARCHE TO GREEK AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE AND OBSERVING " CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS ACCIDENT." " SUCH AN ACT MAKES NO CONTRIBUTION TO GROWTH YUGOSLAV- GREEK RELATIONS, A THING YUGOSLAVIA KEEPS PLEADING FOR, AND NEITHER IS IT CONDUCIVE TO BUILDING UP ATMOSPHERE TO MATCH IN BALKANS." DREW FRONT PAGE COVERAGE POLITIKA AND NOVA MAKEDONIJA, P. 2 BORBA.

3. MARCH 28 TANJUG, CENTRAL PRESS, NOVA MAKEDONIJA AND OSLOBODJENJE OF SRAJEVO ALL CARRY ITEM ON YUGOSLAV DEMARCHE TO GREEK GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS. STORY NOTES YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR " DEMANDED OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF PART OF STATEMENT RELATING TO YUGOSLAVIA, PARTICULARLY CLAIM THAT YUGOSLAV SIDE ERECTS ARTIFICIAL IMPEDIMENTS TO FASTER DEVELOPMENT OF YUGOSLAV- GREEK RELATIONS."

4. UNDER TITLE, " UNACCEPTABLE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE", POLITIKA MAY 28 CARRIES PIECE BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR SIMIC, WHICH OBSERVES " PURPOSE FOR WHICH SUCH STATEMENT BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL NECESSARY REMAINS UNCLEAR." THEN CONTINUES, " IF BASED ON SUPPOSITION ANNOUNCED BY ATHENS VRADENE THAT DURING DOLANC VISIT TO BULGARIA BOTH SIDES AGREED TO SHOVE ASIDE PSEUDO- MACEDONIAN QUESTION AND ATHENS WANTED SAME PRIVILEGE, THEN SUPPOSITION WHICH SERVED AS STARTING POINT WAS AT LEAST INCORRECT." ALSO OBSERVES THAT IF, ON OTHER HAND, REASON FOR STATEMENT REVOLVED AROUND DESIRE TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL COOPERATION ALSO IN MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE, THEN THIS " VERY UNHAPPY DEVELOPMENT" AN
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